

15 December, 1999

Re: Labeling of irradiated foods

Donna Shalala, Secretary
U.S Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC, 20201

9851 '99 DEC 23 P12:54

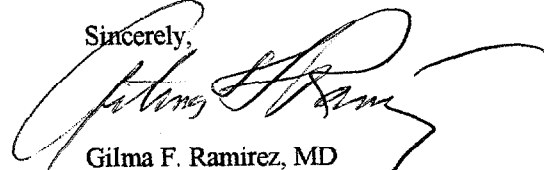
Dear Secretary Shalala:

I am very concerned that the administration may be considering a weakening of the labeling requirements for irradiated foods. I strongly believe that it is my right to know if the food I eat has been treated with radiation.

Foods undergo chemical changes after exposure to radioactive isotopes. The resultant substances have not been proven to be without harm if ingested nor have they been proven to be without harm to the ecosystem into which they would be introduced. Because of the potential danger, only clear and unambiguous labeling is acceptable for irradiated foods. The labeling should be on a prominent place on the package, and if not packaged, a prominent and unambiguous poster should accompany the food where it is displayed for sale.

I hope that you will defend the consumer's right to know in this important decision.

Sincerely,

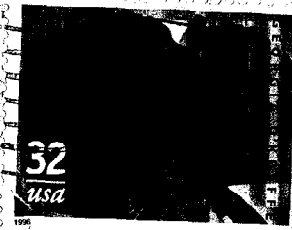
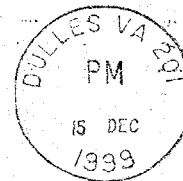


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